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www.courtinfo.ca.gov

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton
Public Information Officer

NEWS RELEASE

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Fourth Appellate District Adopts New Policy for Electronic Devices in Courtrooms

Cell Phones, Computers, and Electronic Devices Barred From Courtrooms Without Written Permission

San Diego—The Court of Appeal of the Fourth Appellate District today announced a new policy that will prohibit cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices in the Court of Appeal's courtrooms without prior court authorization.

Announced by Administrative Presiding Justice Judith D. McConnell, Presiding Justice Manuel A. Ramirez and Presiding Justice David G. Sills, the new policy conforms to the practice already in place in the California Supreme Court and in several other Courts of Appeal in California.

All three divisions of the Fourth Appellate District—located in San Diego, Riverside, and Santa Ana—will enforce this new policy beginning October 1, 2006.

In its announcement today, the Fourth Appellate District stated that counsel with a legitimate use for electronic devices during their oral argument may petition the court for permission to bring these items in the courtroom, but others will be required to leave these items behind.

Questions from counsel should be directed to Mr. Steve Kelly, Clerk/Administrator, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, at 619-645-2762.

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